

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. General Remarks and Disposition of the Claims.

At the time of the Final Office Action, claims 54-84 were pending. Claims 54-62, 67-74, and 76-82 stand rejected. Claims 63-66, 83, and 84 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Although the Examiner has neither rejected to nor objected to claim 75, claim 75 is analogous to objected claims 63 and 84, and Applicants believe that claim 75 would similarly be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 54, and 64-67 have been amended herein. Claims 63 and 75 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request that the above amendments be entered and further submit that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Remarks Regarding Rejection of Claims 76-82.

The Examiner has rejected claims 76-82 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0161087 to Heitz, et al. (hereinafter "*Heitz*"). (Final Office Action at 4.)

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the basis that *Heitz* does not disclose "a viscosifying agent that comprises a polymersome" as recited by independent claim 76. Rather than disclosing the recited polymersome, *Heitz* discloses "a hydraulic fracturing fluid comprising a block copolymer containing at least one bloc water-soluble in nature and at least one block predominantly hydrophobic in nature." *Heitz*, ¶ 12. Dependent on a variety of factors, amphiphilic molecules, such as the block copolymers disclosed in *Heitz*, may self assemble into micelles. *Heitz* contains no disclosure of the recited polymersomes. The micelles formed in *Heitz* are not equivalent to the polymersomes of the present invention. In support of this contention, Applicants respectfully submit the enclosed Declaration of Ian Robb Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.132.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 76, and the claims dependent therefrom, have not been shown to be anticipated by *Heitz*. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection with respect to claims 76-82.


SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections. Applicants further submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicant believes that there are no fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any additional fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, the Commissioner is authorized to debit the deposit account of Halliburton Energy Services, Inc. No. 08-0300, for any underpayment of fees that may be due in association with this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

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